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THE WREN :

Bulletin of the Norfolk Bird Club

A monthly magazine devoted
to the interests of the Club

VOL. I

JANUARY, 1909

No. 1

THIS Bulletin is not a new idea with members of the Norfolk Bird Club. It is the outgrowth of another crude attempt, a history of which will be found elsewhere in this magazine. Ever since the other Bulletin was discontinued there has been a faction in the club desiring its renewal and it is hoped that this attempt will prove more successful than the other.

There is a great deal of unorganized field work carried on in this part of the state by ladies and gentlemen who belong to no bird club except the American Ornithologists' Union. Mr. C. J. Maynard does a great deal to record the results of this unorganized observing in his weekly "record," but if these bird students could get together in some way and record their results it would do a great deal towards promoting understanding between them.

The column devoted to notes will naturally contain only birds seen by members, unless some outside notes of importance and interest are handed in.

CLUB WALK.

ON December 5, 1908, the club took a walk to Marblehead. Six members left the North Station at nine o'clock and upon arriving at Marblehead chartered a launch and were carried across to the Neck. While going across the harbor we saw several Herring Gulls and a Kittiwake. The latter circled about the launch a couple of times allowing us a good view of him and showing his black feet.

Almost as soon as we began our walk along the rocks we saw a Black Guillemot a little way out. Going along a little farther, one

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of our members saw a bird on the water which was soon identified as a Horned Grebe. Off a stony beach we saw four more Guillemots and a few Old-squaws. When we got to Devereux beach we started two shore birds, one a Killdeer and the other a Sanderling. As the Killdeer was the first any of us had ever seen we spent some time in watching him.

We then walked along the shore towards Swampscott, making occasional stops to look at various ducks, usually Old-squaws. At Beach Bluffs we decided to lunch. While we were thus engaged a flock of about twenty Canada Geese flew over and when these were gone we spent some time in watching three Loons and a Holboell's Grebe.

After finishing our lunch we walked along towards Swampscott, seeing very little worth mentioning until we arrived at Nahant. In the beach grass along the Boulevard we flushed an Ipswich Sparrow and a Lapland Longspur. A few Horned Larks were seen along the beach. Just outside the breakers was a large flock of Buffleheads and a few Greater Scaup Ducks. After rounding Little Nahant it was decided to return as there was not enough light to make it worth while going round Big Nahant.

Other species seen but not mentioned in this account were, Crow, Song Sparrow, Flicker, Tree Sparrow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Surf Scoter, and Black-backed Gull.

NOTES.

A PIGEON HAWK was seen by Jamaica Pond on November 23 by J. Kittredge. It was seen both by the Pond and in the Fenway by other observers for several days after the 23rd.

An unusually warm fall has kept several species of birds with us later than usual. Some of these will probably winter. A few of these late dates are given here. A Hermit Thrush, apparently wintering near the east entrance of the Arnold Arboretum was last seen January 9th, by R. L. Creesy. A Robin has been frequently seen in the same place. A Fox Sparrow was seen by Leverett's Pond December 25, by Joseph Kittredge, Jr. Numbers of White-throated Sparrows have been seen in the Fenway and the Arboretum. They are evidently wintering.

A bird supposed to be a Hoary Redpoll was seen in Cambridge about December 20 by Mr. H. W. Wright and subsequently by other observers. Mr. Wright believes that the bird may be an albino Redpoll, but the fact that he is lighter all over, with the black throat and red crown standing out conspicuously seems to preclude the albino theory.

On December 24 two Razor-billed Auks, a Brünnichs Murre and several Black Guillemots were seen at Nahant by R. M. Marble and Barron Brainerd.

A Razor-billed Auk, five Black Guillemots, a Kittiwake, three American Crossbills and about seventy Myrtle Warblers were seen at Rockport by Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters on December 28, 1908.

The mummified remains of a Warbler which had become entangled in a burdock were found in the Arnold Arboretum by R. L. Creesy on January 9. As the bird is more or less faded identification has not yet been made.

(A paper on the Birds of Jamaica Pond during the fall of 1908 will appear in the next number, therefore all notes relating to the Pond birds have been omitted from this number.)

HISTORY OF THE NORFOLK BIRD CLUB.

ON the first of December, 1905, several of us fellows, mostly students in the Brookline High School gathered at the Morse's home, 76 Cypress Street. Our object was to form a club in which we were to have debates and discuss topics of interest. With this idea in mind we formed the Brookline Topic Club. We had meetings every Friday evening, but owing to lack of enthusiasm these meetings were rather unsuccessful.

Since a majority of the members were interested in birds and nature, we decided on December 29, 1905, to change from the Brookline Topic Club to the Norfolk Bird Club. For some unknown reason the name was kept secret for over a year but at last this secrecy was abolished. Our object now was to study the birds and flowers of this vicinity. For many weeks we wrote papers, which we read at the meetings, on birds and flowers. In connection with our interest in nature we kept a flower list, an animal

list and a bird list. Any species to be put on a list had to be seen in Massachusetts. Although we have discontinued the first two lists we have a keen interest in the last.

Owing to the resignation of a few members when we changed from the Brookline Topic Club to the Norfolk Bird Club we elected other fellows whose interest in nature was great and our membership is now eleven active members, a number which has been maintained for several years. We elected in the spring of 1908 several honorary members who we thought would like to visit us at different meetings and see how we proceeded. It is now our intention to invite two or three honorary members to each meeting to listen to our papers and add criticisms or remarks of their own observation, or if they are unable to come to send us a communication on some subject of interest.

In the spring of 1908 we issued a club paper, "Bulletin of the Norfolk Bird Club," which owing to a lack of proper printing facilities was a poor success.

In the fall of 1908 a new system was adopted whereby each member writes on a given bird from personal observation. The papers are open to discussion.

At a meeting of the Norfolk Bird Club, December 26, 1908, Richard L. Creesy of 42 Harris St., Brookline, was elected an active member.

MEMBERS OF THE NORFOLK BIRD CLUB.

Active.

Barron Brainerd	Harold G. Morse
Richard L. Creesy	Randolph Morse
Joseph Kittredge, Jr.	Carlyle Morris
W. Charlesworth Levey	James L. Peters
Richard M. Marble	Charles Schweinfurth

Allan G. Waite.

Honorary.

Dr. J. B. Brainerd	Hon. Charles F. Jenney
Nathan Clifford Brown	Charles J. Maynard
Henry F. Dunbar	Harold St. John
T. Otis Fuller	Horace W. Wright.

A THREE DAYS WALKING TRIP ALONG THE SHORE.

ON December 28, R. M. Marble and I started from Little Nahant to walk northward along the shore. The sky was clear, there was a brisk off-shore wind, and the thermometer registered about 35°. As usual, off Lynn beach, we found Old-squaws, Herring Gulls, and Buffle-heads. At the edge of the beach grass a flock of Horned Larks were feeding, and as we approached Lynn, a small gull flew overhead. The light was good and the bird very evidently had pure white wings, not pearl gray, and no dark tips. We, therefore, decided that it was an Iceland Gull. At Swampscott, we noted the Holboell's and Horned Grebes, Golden-eye, and greater Scaup Ducks and White-winged Scoters. From Swampscott to Phillip's Beach, we saw Crows, Flickers, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Song Sparrow, and Pine Siskin.

The most interesting feature of the day occurred at Beach Bluffs. A Horned Grebe, apparently uninjured, was up on the beach. My companion discovered him when only the head with its red eye showed above a stone. As we approached, the bird got up and hopped, literally hopped with both feet at once, along the beach several feet. Then, he fell forward on his breast and did not attempt to get up again. He showed a disposition to be snappy when we tried to pick him up. Presently, he scrambled into a pool of shallow water which had filtered through the mass of seaweed. He dove immediately and tried to get through the seaweed but could not. In this case certainly, he did not use his wings in swimming. Finally, we caught him and examined with much interest his lobed feet. Then we put him in the water, when he dove at once and came up well out in the cove.

At Beach Bluffs, while we ate lunch, we saw the Northern Loon, and Black-backed Gull. Off Marblehead Neck were several Black Guillemots and a small flock of Red-breasted Mergansers. A Tree Sparrow on our way to Salem, completed the list for the day, which gave a total of twenty species. I think the most noticeable thing for the day, was the abundance of both kinds of Grebe. They were everywhere in flocks of from 2 to 6 individuals.

The next day, December 29, was also clear and warm with a light northwest wind. We started from Salem about 8.30 and

followed the cliff-walk from Beverley, by Manchester and Magnolia, to Gloucester. A more perfect walk on a more perfect day I never took. All day the Grebes were most abundant. We found Herring and Black-backed Gulls, two Northern Loons, and a pair of Golden-eyes, for the common water birds. Near the mouth of Manchester harbor, a pair of Ruddy Ducks called our attention. One was a handsome male. It was the first time we had observed them on salt water.

The land birds along the heavily wooded shore formed the chief component of the day's list. Just after leaving Beverley, we saw a Brown Creeper, a Robin, and three Red-breasted Nuthatches. At Manchester we noted Flickers, Chickadees, Song Sparrows, a Pheasant, a flock of Redpolls, and two of American Crossbills, one of which was quickly dispersed on the appearance of a Sharpshinned Hawk. In the juniper bushes near Gloucester, a large flock of Myrtle warblers were wintering, and just outside of Rockport, where we spent the night, we flushed a Red-shouldered Hawk. Again, the total list for the day was 20.

Our third day, December 30, was no longer warm and pleasant. The sky was cloudy and a raw east wind made it rather uncomfortable. We started out at 8 o'clock and before we had gone a mile found a Dovekie or Little Auk. It seemed ridiculous that so tiny a bird should brave the storms of Cape Ann. He was quite tame, stayed close in shore, and entirely satisfied our desire to see him well. As he dove, we could see him open his wings as if to use them under water, which, I think, is actually the case. From Rockport to Annisquam, the granite quarries were too frequent for good bird country. However, we noted several Holboell's Grebes, Herring Gull, two Scaup Ducks and an American Scoter. Among the land birds were Flicker, Crow, Siskin, Song Sparrow, Myrtle warbler, Chickadee, and Brown Creeper.

Owing to lack of navigating facilities we took the cars from Annisquam to Essex and walked from there to Ipswich, our destination. It was 3.30 P. M. when we reached the beach and the light was failing fast. The next half-hour produced several good birds notwithstanding. A Kittiwake Gull, a Gannet, and a Bald Eagle were the most notable. A Black-backed Gull, several hundred Red-breasted Mergansers, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark,

and Tree Sparrow made the third day's list just 20. This ended a very successful and enjoyable trip. In all three days we had seen 37 different species which is rather good for the last of December.

Joseph Kittredge, Jr.

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

MOST of us, when we began watching and studying the birds, looked for the species right in our neighborhood. Then, as our interest increased, we went into the country, where shyer kinds were to be found. We rejoiced and wondered at our first Scarlet Tanager. So, our interest and knowledge increased until we knew the land birds quite well. I know that, in my own case, I reached this point and looked upon the next step as a very long and very hard one.

The water and shore birds, such as the ducks and sandpipers, seemed to defy identification. I know that many of my readers have passed this moment of doubt, almost despair. To those who have not I would offer a word of encouragement. The ducks are not always mere black and white specks so far out to sea that they cannot be distinguished. Each duck, like each warbler, has its characteristic mark. Moreover, the ducks are with us in the winter when the land birds are few and far between, so that one's enthusiasm is stimulated when it might otherwise lie dormant. The sandpipers, too, fill a gap. They come in the fall when the land migrants are quiet and retiring. On the protected beaches they gather in great flocks and often become very tame. And they, too, have distinctive features. A curved bill, a white rump, or a general white appearance is enough to identify three of the species.

So, as I said before, don't be discouraged because the shore birds look hard. They are not. If you have not already done so, go to the shore some day soon and see how interesting the ducks really are. Finally, you ought to be enthusiastic for the sake of the birds themselves. Why are the Golden Plover and the Killdeer so scarce along our coast? These birds need and deserve protection as much and at present more than the land birds. Unless this protection is given they may soon become, like the Great Auk, a species of the past.

Joseph Kittredge, Jr.

THE WREN

Bulletin of the Norfolk Bird Club

A monthly magazine devoted
to the interests of the Club

VOL. I

FEBRUARY, 1909

No. 2

Editor, J. L. PETERS, Ridgely 66, Cambridge.

Manager, JOSEPH KITTREDGE, JR., 31 Holyoke St., Cambridge.

DURING the months of March, April, and May the members of the club are going to carry on organized observation of the spring migration. The system that is going to govern the observation is simple. The plan is to have at least two, usually more, fellows in the field every afternoon from March 1st to June 1st. All the best bird territory about Boston will be covered in this way as often as possible. So that each piece of ground may get good attention, each fellow will be given a weekly assignment of country to cover, and will hand in a weekly report of all birds seen by him, giving date of 1st arrival, when the bird was next seen and when it became common. In this way it is hoped to study the spring migration closely and accurately. If sufficient interest is taken, the same plan will be applied to the fall migration.

All results will be published in *The Wren*.

NOTES.

One of the many birds spending the winter north of their winter range is the Catbird. One of these birds has been seen near the administration building in the Arboretum by numerous observers. It was first seen November 22 by Barron Brainerd, Joseph Kittredge, Jr., and Charles Schweinfarth, and last seen on January 17 by J. L. Peters. On December 13 one was seen in some thick bushes near the foot of Hemlock Hill, but may have been the same bird.

A Fox Sparrow is apparently wintering in Jamaica Plain. It was first seen January 17 by J. L. Peters and again on February 3 by the same observer.

A Lapland Longspur and an Iceland Gull were seen at Nahant January 29 by Barron Brainerd.

Four Lapland Longspurs and an Ipswich Sparrow were seen with a flock of Horned Larks along Lynn Beach, February 1 by J. L. Peters. Two Black Guillemots were seen off Nahant the same day by the same observer.

The quality of shelter and the amount of food and water in the vicinity of the Museum in the Arboretum have induced the following birds, besides the Catbird, to spend the winter there. Robin; one is frequently seen. Hermit Thrush; one was seen regularly up to February 7. It was last seen by Barron Brainerd on that date but is probably still there. White-throated and Song Sparrows are seen along the brook. At least six Flickers and over a dozen Bob-white feed on the numerous berries in the rear of the building.

Six Myrtle Warblers find shelter about Hemlock Hill and in the conifer plantation in the Arboretum.

A Cooper's Hawk has been frequently seen in the Arboretum; while possibly the same one has been seen in Brookline by Barron Brainerd and Richard L. Creesy. Mr. Brainerd saw the bird devour an English Sparrow.

Carlyle Morris saw a Cedar Waxwing in Brookline on January 29. This bird is the first one reported this winter. There is a locality in Roxbury where a flock of Waxwings usually appears early in January, but the spot has not been visited this winter.

On February 5, R. M. Marble, in company with Mr. Wright, found fourteen Meadowlarks at Squantum, five were in song. A few days later Messrs. Kittredge and Waite found eight Meadowlarks at the same place.

On February 7 a large flock of Pine Siskins and thirteen White-winged Crossbills, mostly males, was seen on Hemlock Hill by Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters. The Crossbills were later observed in the conifer plantation. Here one of the males broke off a cone and extracted the few seeds from it while holding it in his foot.

While crossing Marblehead Harbor on February 8, J. L. Peters, R. M. Marble, and Joseph Kittredge, Jr., saw a Glaucous Gull,

At Philips Beach the same observers found an Iceland Gull flying in company with a few Herring Gulls. The same, or possibly another bird of the same species was found at Fisherman's Beach. The bird was again with Herring Gulls.

At a regular meeting of the Norfolk Bird Club held on February 6, the following officers were elected:—President, Joseph Kittredge Jr.; Secretary, Barron Brainerd; Treasurer, R. M. Marble; Assistant Secretary, Charles Schweinfurth.

WATER BIRDS OF JAMAICA POND IN 1908.

JAMAICA POND is the largest body of fresh water, except the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, within the limits of the city of Boston, covering 65½ acres. It is under the control of the Boston Park Department. The Mallards, Canada Geese, and Swans, kept there by the Commission, serve as decoys to attract the wild water fowl on their migrations. Another point in favor of this pond is that as it is fed by springs; only a very cold spell will entirely close it, and for this reason the ducks remain there well into the winter.

The wild fowl season at the pond begins the end of September or the first of October and extends, except for the time in January and February when it is frozen, to the first part of May. The fall migration is better by a very great deal than the spring. A favorite resting place for the ducks is opposite the spot where Sargent's brook enters the pond. The birds are most active at sunrise and at sunset. At the latter time the ducks fly about, some merely circling the pond while others go off in the direction of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir probably spending the night there. It is interesting to note that after Jamaica Pond froze, about January 19th, 1909, the ducks which a few days before were seen at Jamaica, were seen later at the Reservoir.

The water birds seen at Jamaica Pond during the fall are as follows:

Pied-billed Grebe; uncommon but regular migrant. One was seen during the second week of October. Another stayed from November 22 to 27. Although the tame Mallards tried to rob this "water-witch" of its food when it came to the surface, yet by

swimming long distances under water the grebe managed to keep away from them and ate in peace.

Herring Gull; common transient visitor from October to April if the pond be open. During cloudy, foggy, and threatening days and especially after storms this gull may be found in numbers from one to twenty.

American Merganser; rare winter visitor. Only one record lately — a male which flew around the pond on December 14. The bird just mentioned probably came from the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, about two miles away where this merganser is a common visitor from December to April.

Mallard; although there are plenty of tame ducks of this species on the pond there was one, a drake, that did not mix with the domesticated birds. The duck in question always was with the Black Ducks either squatting on the ice or on the reef. This bird flew easily and not like the tame ducks that had partially grown their clipped wings. The dates for this Mallard begin in November. He was seen the greatest number of times in December, on the 9th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 26th, and the January dates end only when the pond entirely froze over.

Black Duck; very common winter resident. The first birds arrived the first week in October and before the pond was frozen the numbers had been above the hundred mark. The average during December was about eighty-five. In the spring these ducks stay until the first week of May. During the day the Black Ducks are usually to be seen with their heads under their wings, floating lazily on the water or squatting on the edge of the ice.

Green-winged Teal; during January, 1908, a beautiful male was at the pond. In February he was at Leverett's Pond and on March 14 he was seen in the Back Bay Fens. A small duck was seen on the ice with the Black Ducks, December 13, 1908, and may have been a teal.

Baldpate; a male in full plumage of this very rare visitor to this part of Massachusetts arrived at Jamaica Pond on December 14, staying till January 18. Then it was seen during the next week at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir and from January 28 to the present time is at Leverett's Pond. The food of this bird consists chiefly of the aquatic plants which it obtains by robbing the Coots

and Lesser Scaups. The Baldpate is very tame allowing a very satisfactory view.

Wood Duck; very rare visitor. A female was seen on the pond in the afternoon of December 20. This bird seemed to be exhausted as no matter how much noise we made, it would barely raise its head from under its wing. Nevertheless we saw clearly the white eye ring.

Lesser Scaup Duck; common migrant in the fall. Next to Black Duck, this bird has been most prominent this season. On sunny days the purplish reflexions of the males can be plainly seen. Two were seen November 4. Eight arrived November 25 and stayed till December 14, when four left. On December 19, two more came and on the 20th only one was there. The number was raised to five by the 26th. This last number stayed until January 10 of this year.

Ruddy Duck; common fall migrant. The first Ruddy arrived last year on October 21 against October 19 for 1907. On November 8 the bird which arrived the 21st was reenforced by two more. Another came on the 22nd, while only one was there on December 1. Three again were present by the 6th; these stayed till the 21st, when they disappeared until the last of the month. Finally the three left January 9. The diving of the Ruddy Duck ranks next to that of the grebe at Jamaica. Their sprig-tails are always noticeable.

American Coot; common migrant in the fall. In 1908 the first Coot was seen October 9 and remained until the 25. On November 22, three appeared and were seen until December 19, when one had gone. The next day only one was seen and this bird left December 24. Last year a Coot stayed at Leverett's Pond after Jamaica was frozen, until the second week in April. I think the Coot is one of the most interesting birds at Jamaica Pond. They dive expertly but no sooner do they come to the surface than they are surrounded by the Mallards and it is a very active Coot that can eat his hard earned morsel. One morning about sunrise when I was at Jamaica I heard a familiar rail-like note and almost immediately a Coot came around the point followed by another. They gave two distinct calls; one, a series of grunts like the Virginia Rail, and another a metallic call like the alarm note of the Sora.

Greater Yellow Legs; very rare migrant. I saw one bird of this species on the shore of the pond October 21. It looked a little small but it is very improbable that the bird was of the lesser variety. After watching this unexpected visitor for some minutes it flew off toward Brookline giving its call note in a subdued tone.

Barron Brainerd.

A TRIP TO MARTHA'S VINEYARD.

On December 29 I left the Back Bay station at 12:44 with my friend Barron Brainerd for a trip to Martha's Vineyard. We went first to New Bedford where the train connected with the steamer "Uncatena."

Once on board the Uncatena we were soon steaming across Buzzard's Bay which seemed to be alive with various species of water birds. As the weather was mild with all the wind astern, it was easy to stand on the forward deck and watch the ducks. Every few minutes the boat started a small bunch of ducks, usually Old Squaws. Often we could see Scoters, almost always the white-winged species, although we saw twenty-four Surf Scoters as well. We saw four Northern and two Red-throated Loons from the steamer. One of the larger ones endeavored to fly at the boat's approach, but was unable to do so, because he tried to rise with the wind. We also had an exhibition of the poor starting qualities of the Horned Grebe. We saw about a dozen of these birds between New Bedford and Wood's Hole. Many of them flew, but their feet hit the tops of about every wave and their flight did not last long. One little grebe flew straight for the steamer; he was forced to drop into the water and dive to avoid hitting her. On some rocks at Woods Hole we saw two Bonaparte's Gulls, their light feet being plainly visible.

After leaving Woods Hole the light was too poor to identify any more birds, and by the time that we arrived at Edgartown it was dark.

At Edgartown we were met by a fellow who drove us to a small camp on Swan Neck. The next morning we got up about 4:30, had some breakfast and proceeded to the shore of the pond.

About 6:30 we crept into a blind to study ducks at close range, but

the only bird that came in was a female Scaup. After a while we got tired of shivering and seeing no ducks so we got up and walked around seeing American Mergansers, Golden-eyes, Horned Grebes, Buffleheads, a Red-throated Loon and a few land birds.

We were back at the camp again before nine and started off on a walk around the heads of the coves and down to the shore. In the middle of the pond was a raft of ducks numbering about 900 individuals, mostly Greater Scaups with a few Red-heads and Golden-eyes.

When we got down to the shore we started a couple of Ipswich Sparrows from the beach grass. We followed these up, starting more, until we could count over twenty Ipswich and a couple of Savanna Sparrows. We then went onto the beach and after following along there for a while, struck back into the beach grass again, starting twenty more Ipswich Sparrows and a couple of Savannas.

In the pond and outside we saw a good many ducks, mostly Scoters, with an occasional Loon or a Red-breasted Merganser. As we retraced our steps up the beach we saw a Canada Goose standing on an exposed part of the beach. Thinking him a cripple we armed ourselves with bottles and sticks, hoping to "get" him somehow. But the Goose was not as sick as we supposed him to be, and the last we saw of him he was flying heavily off in the direction of Noman's Land.

We got back to the camp about twelve and after preparing lunch, drove over to our friend's house. On the drive over we saw a bird at the head of a long cove. When examined through the glass he turned out to be a Canvasback. Our friend attempted to stalk him, but was unable to do so on account of insufficient cover.

About half past two our friend drove us out onto the plains to visit the Heath Hen colony. On the drive out we saw a few Rough-legged Hawks, one of which did his hovering "stunt" for us, and a Bald Eagle. Finally, after much driving through sandy roads we reached the farm where we left our horse and started on a walk for the cornfield where the birds are fed by the warden. As we approached it we saw one Heath Hen fly onto a corn stock, and others sitting on the ground. Suddenly a bunch of about 50 birds flew up and sailed off. A couple of moments later 42 more got up

and followed the first ones, and while we were looking over a large flock of Horned Larks, three more Heath Hens flew to cover. Ninety-five Heath Hens in a few minutes is certainly a sight worth going miles to see.

We spent that night on a feather bed at our friend's house and awoke in time for a nine o'clock breakfast. About ten in the morning we started for a walk up the shore towards Tisbury, seeing Black Ducks, Golden-eyes, Redheads, American and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Cooper's Hawk on the way. About half a mile from Tisbury Pond we suddenly changed our minds and walked down in the opposite direction as far as Mattakeeset Creek. We saw Scaups, White-winged Scoters, two species of Loons, Horned Grebes and both Herring and Black-backed Gulls on the way down. At the place where we had seen so many Ipswich Sparrows the day before we found only two, with two Savannas. In the afternoon we took a short walk. About the only birds seen were three Rough-legged Hawks, all normal phase birds.

The next day being the first of the new year and our last on the island we felt bound to make a good start. So setting out at quarter past six we walked along the frozen beach down to Mattakeeset. The birds appeared to be well in evidence if not abundant. On the walk down we took our time, but were well repaid by some of the birds seen.

The only light when we got onto the beach was that in the east. It was possible to identify a duck as he flew past this by the shape, so before it was very light we had seen both Black Ducks and Red-breasted Mergansers. By half past seven we had got down as far as Edgartown Pond and had seen Herring Gulls, Old Squaws, Golden-eyes, a Redhead, Northern and Red-throated Loons, Ipswich Sparrow and Snow Bunting. By the time we had reached Mattakeeset the Rough-legged Hawk, White-winged Scoter, and Bufflehead had been added to the list. We had scarcely started westward again when we saw a couple of American Eiders flying past, both birds were adult males. In the pond we saw a Horned Grebe, while Black-backed Gulls were occasionally seen either over the pond or out to sea.

(To be continued.)

THE WREN

Bulletin of the Norfolk Bird Club

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VOL. I

MARCH, 1909

No. 3

Editor, J. L. PETERS, Ridgely 66, Cambridge.

Manager, JOSEPH KITTREDGE, JR., 31 Holyoke St., Cambridge.

ON account of the absence of snow combined with a prolonged period of warm weather, the plan outlined in the February number of the *Wren* for observing the spring migration, was put into operation sooner than was at first expected. What few migrants were observed are recorded as follows.

February 22 Allan G. Waite and H. F. Dunbar found a male Red-winged Blackbird singing about a mile above Kendrick's Bridge. February 24 J. L. Peters saw a flock of 10 male Redwings in a field on the edge of Lexington. None of the birds sang. Barron Brainerd reports an increase of Song Sparrows in the Fenway.

In addition to these birds seen by active members of the club, Rev. H. W. Wright saw 3 Bluebirds and a Red-winged Blackbird fly over the ridge between Belmont and Arlington Heights on February 23. A Bronzed Grackle appeared in the Public Garden on February 23. A few other Bluebirds, Redwings and Robins have been seen about Boston.

A TRIP TO MARTHA'S VINEYARD.

(Continued from p. 16.)

When we got to a small point of land separating Edgartown Pond from Job's Neck Pond we left the beach and followed along the shore of the pond. On Job's neck we found a few Ipswich and a Savanna Sparrow, and almost stepped on an immature

Marsh Hawk. In a cove of Edgartown pond we saw quite a number of ducks. These we stalked carefully until we got quite close. Then we showed ourselves and started several American Mergansers, a Redhead, and a pair of Green-winged Teal.

After leaving the shore of the pond we passed through a small patch of white oak where we saw a Downy Woodpecker, a Flicker and some Chickadees, and in some bushes just beyond, a few Tree Sparrows.

Circling over the cove where the Canvasback had been a few days before was a Red-tailed Hawk. We had several excellent chances to see his tail as he wheeled overhead. By this time we felt that it was time for dinner so we hurried back across some fields, scaring up both Meadow and Horned Larks on the way.

After dinner we walked out to the Heath Hen farm again. On the way we saw a Song Sparrow, some Blue Jays, and a few Rough-legged Hawks. When we reached the corn field, we found only a few Heath Hens in it, most of them were perched in the scrub oak surrounding it. Occasionally a few would get up and fly to the edge of the field only to turn and go back. Some bushes had as many as five or six Heath Hens on them, and one Hen in a bush usually meant three or four more underneath. After we had spent nearly half an hour with the birds we met the warden and walked with him as far as his house, declining his invitation to come in and get warmed up.

The next morning at half past five found us on the cold drive to the boat. We did not go near any ponds and the small birds were not moving so we saw no birds until we got to Edgartown. From the boat we saw the White-winged and Surf Scoters, Old Squaw, Horned Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, and two species of Loon, and at Woods Hole we found the two Bonaparte's Gulls on the same rock. Going across Buzzard's Bay we saw a good many Old Squaws, but that was all. We were in New Bedford by 10.15 and a couple of hours later, back in Boston again, well satisfied with our vacation.

J. L. Peters.

THE FALL MIGRATION OF THE TREE SWALLOWS.

The past two falls, while I have been staying in Duxbury, I have come upon, quite unexpectedly, large migratory flocks of the Tree or White-bellied Swallows. Duxbury is, I think, an unusually favorable place for these birds, since it has an extensive salt marsh, bordered by a long stretch of sandy beach. The Tree Swallows are summer residents of the vicinity in small colonies; but in the fall, it would seem as if all the Tree Swallows of New England gather there for the southward flight.

In 1907, on September 2, I noticed a tremendous flock of the birds. From a distance, as I approached the head of the marsh where a road with the ever-present telegraph wires crossed, the flock looked like a cloud of snow flakes. When I reached the road and stood still, they began to settle on the wires. Gradually the wires between three successive poles filled up, until the birds landed on each other's backs to get a place. All the while, they kept up a continual twittering, and gossiping, and quarreling. There were ten wires and each wire for the distance between three poles was covered with Tree Swallows. An accurate count of the whole flock was impossible, owing to their restlessness, so I counted the birds along one wire and multiplied by ten. From this rough estimate, I decided there were between 3000 and 4000 birds in the flock. As I watched them, an old farmer came along. He was a talkative soul and to emphasize the number of birds there really were, he told me the following yarn. He said that the day before, he had been out on the marsh with his flint-lock or some such antique fire-arm. There was an old saddle out there covered with swallows. He fired the gun into the midst and killed 80 birds in one shot. This story shows how numerous the birds were, although it is undoubtedly much exaggerated. It shows, too, the need of enforcing the laws to protect valuable birds from wholesale, wanton slaughter.

On Sept. 10, 1908, I noticed another multitude of Tree Swallows on the sandy beach. I could not make any estimate of the numbers, but when they settled down, the beach as far as I could readily see, appeared to be covered with black and white stones. In this flock, I noted one Cliff Swallow, the only bird of another species

which I saw in either flock. I believe such companies occur regularly further south each year, but to me such vast multitudes of one species were quite novel and very interesting.

Joseph Kittredge, Jr.

THE MOCKINGBIRD IN FRANKLIN PARK.

ON February 22 I saw a Mockingbird in Franklin Park. As this is the fourth time that this species has been observed in Franklin Park in the winter, it may be a good plan to give a short account of his previous visits. In 1902 the bird first appeared on the 26th of January and remained until April 14. On February 3, 1903, I saw the bird again and observed him at intervals until April 21. After these two instances the bird did not appear in the Park, although this species was seen in several localities close by, until 1908. On February 9 of that year the Mockingbird made his appearance, and remained until April 26. In April another bird arrived, but whether one was a male and the other a female I am not prepared to state. At any rate one was a male. On April 20 I watched him as he sang. His song was composed of snatches from nearly a dozen species of birds, including the Blue Jay, Purple Finch, Sparrow Hawk, Flicker, Chickadee, Red-winged Blackbird, Bluebird, Chewink, and Brown Thrasher. Neither of the last two species had then arrived.

Just why these Mockingbirds should appear in January or February and depart in April is a question no one seems to be able to answer. Almost all the records for Mockingbirds in this vicinity are fall or winter ones; very few birds have been seen in the summer.

J. L. Peters.

NOTES.

ON February 20 Barron Brainerd, J. L. Peters, and W. C. Levey, while in company with Mr. C. J. Maynard on the Gloucester boat saw numbers of Kittiwakes; three Razor-billed Auks off the Graves; a Kumlien's Gull off Winthrop; a Brünnich's Murre off Nahant and another off Marblehead; and five Little Auks off Manchester.

Two Rough-legged Hawks were seen at Ipswich on February 22 by Barron Brainerd and Joseph Kittredge, Jr.

A Snowy Owl was seen near the life saving station at Nahant for several days up to February 22.

On February 27 R. M. Marble, Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters saw a fine male Cardinal at Ipswich. Later Messrs. Brainerd and Peters found a Carolina Wren near the same place. Both these birds were discovered by Dr. C. W. Townsend nearly a month before. Two Rough-legged Hawks, probably the same ones reported the 22nd, were seen.

Joseph Kittredge, Jr., and H. G. Morse saw a Rough-legged Hawk and five Black-crowned Night Herons, all in the brown plumage at Cohasset on February 27.

Six Horned Larks flew over Franklin Park on February 28. They are the first that have ever been seen there.

February 28 J. L. Peters, B. Brainerd, C. Schweinfurth, and C. Morris saw a Shrike, which had been watching from the top of an oak, suddenly swoop down upon a bush in which the Mockingbird was perched. The latter uttered a cry of alarm and flew out of the bush, the shrike making no attempt at pursuit. It seems to be the experience of most people to find Shrikes and Mockingbirds on rather friendly relations.

NESTING OF THE JUNCO AT CRAWFORD, N. H.

THE Crawford House stands in the heart of the White Mountains at an altitude of 1920 feet above sea level. The hotel is in a clearing of about sixty acres, surrounded on all sides by a wilderness, most of which is primeval. In this locality I have observed the birds for several seasons, from late June to late September, always with the intention of noticing interesting facts concerning them. The Junco I find is by far the commonest bird here and consequently I have found many of their nests.

One day I had occasion to hunt for a golf ball under the station platform and there, greatly to my surprise, I found a Junco's nest containing four young birds. This nest was not more than four feet from the railroad track where numerous trains pass daily and where freight is shifted. The rumbling of the trains, and the

banging of baggage did not appear to disturb the mother bird for, on one occasion, I crawled underneath to see what she would do when a train passed. Although the ground on which the nest was built trembled, the bird remained on her nest. A pair of Juncos nested under this platform till 1908, when the entrance leading under it was blocked.

Another strange location for a nest was directly under a kitchen window where there was usually much noise. Probably when the birds built their nest, before the house was opened, the situation was a quiet one. However, these birds objected to noise for soon after the hotel opened they deserted their nest which contained four eggs nearly ready to hatch. During the season of 1906 a pair of these birds nested under a small board walk which led through the garden. People were constantly walking within a few inches of the female's head, but very rarely did she leave her nest and then for only a few moments. In the garden are several small stone pyramids, over which nasturtiums climb, and among them a pair of Juncos usually nest.

When the railroad was constructed a large amount of sand and gravel was used as an embankment. In this some Golden-rod grew which formed a nesting site at its base for a pair of Juncos. One nest was built at the base of the plant in such a position that the base-leaves acted as a roof for water and yet gave room for sun and air. Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown showed me this nest in July, 1907.

Apparently the nesting sites most preferred are in the banks along the roads and paths, and among the roots of overturned trees. Along the road I have, during several years, found numerous nests in a comparatively short distance. Along the Mt. Willard road I have noticed an interesting phenomenon, about July 10; at the base of the Mountain Juncos about a week old; at half the distance up Juncos not more than three or four days old, while at the top the eggs have not hatched or have not been hatched more than a day. My records show that Junco's eggs hatch at the altitude of 1920 feet on or within a day or two of July 4. Occasionally, however, I have found unhatched eggs on the eighth. Of course the eggs hatch later at higher altitudes; for instance, I found a Junco's nest containing eggs on July 18 near the summit of Mt.

Clinton about 4000 feet above sea level. As a rule I find that four eggs constitute a clutch but I have sometimes found three and sometimes five. The young are fed often and grow so rapidly that they usually have left their nest in about two weeks after hatching.

During August the Juncos retire to the deep woods and seem to keep in groups of three or four but in September they reappear around the hotel. I think these birds are those that have been in the woods, not migrants. Toward the middle of the month the number greatly increases until about the fifteenth it is not unusual to see large flocks of Juncos, some feeding along the roadsides, others along the edge of the woods. After the twenty-fifth I have noticed a few of these birds but not as many as in the middle of the month. I usually leave for home about the twenty-eighth and so do not know about the Juncos at Crawford's after that time.

Richard M. Marble.

SHORE-BIRD SEASON AT HYANNIS.

THE shore-bird migration at Hyannis, Massachusetts, begins usually the first week in August and lasts till November. I usually find the birds on a sand island near the house or on the large marshes two or three miles distant. Sometimes I have heard a Yellowlegs, flying over my house and have by continual whistling brought him down within fifty feet of the piazza.

On August 6, 1906, I saw a Hudsonian Curlew on Succonessett Point about fifteen miles west of Hyannis and on August twenty-fourth of the same year I saw a flock of about seventy or eighty Sandpipers among which were the Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper and a half-dozen Semipalmated Plover. In 1907 there was no great migration about Hyannis because the United States Squadron was stationed in Provincetown Harbor and was having target practice during the months of August and September. This, I think, frightened the shore-birds away, because, when I questioned some hunters, they said that where the shore-birds were common in 1906, there were only a few seen in 1907. In 1908 there was no great flight, but I saw the following species: — Hudsonian Curlew, July 28; Semipalmated Plover, August 10; two Willets, August 19;

a few sandpipers and a small flock of Black-bellied Plover about the last of September.

As I said before, the flight was small. I learned after I had left there was a large flight about the last of October. If there were not so many gunners, as there are in the neighborhood, the shore-birds would stay longer, but as it is, they remain only a few days in one place.

Randolph Morse.

THE WREN

Bulletin of the Norfolk Bird Club

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Editor, J. L. PETERS, Ridgely 66, Cambridge.

Manager, JOSEPH KITTREDGE, JR., 31 Holyoke St., Cambridge.

MIGRATION DURING MARCH.

The weather for the first few days of March was quite mild, but from the 3rd to the 11th the prevailing wind was northwest. Only a few birds arrived between these dates. The greater part of the arrivals was Song Sparrows. After the 6th Redwings became more abundant but not common. A few Bluebirds and Grackles appeared but not in any numbers. On March 7 Joseph Kittredge, Jr., saw a flock of 6 Rusty Blackbirds at Blue Hill.

March 12 was a beautiful day and the conditions for a flight that night seemed favorable, but for some reason there were only a few arrivals, chiefly Bluebirds. Barron Brainerd and R. L. Creesy saw a Mourning Dove in Weston on March 12. On the 13th Barron Brainerd saw a Meadowlark in the Fenway, undoubtedly a migrant. As Meadowlarks have wintered very commonly this season it has been difficult to distinguish the winter birds from new arrivals.

On the night of March 15 there was a large flight of Grackles; on the 17th there seemed to be a slight increase in the migrants already noted except Robins, Rusties, and possibly Meadowlarks. On the 18th Rusties were seen in the Fresh Pond Swamps by Joseph Kittredge, Jr., J. L. Peters, and Barron Brainerd. On the 19th Robins had a slight increase, but the number of other species remained about the same. No Rusties were reported.

The first migrant Fox Sparrow was seen at Leominster on March 20 by Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters. Up to March 31 there has been no great flight of these birds, four birds in Newton, four more in the Arboretum, both on the 28th, 5 in Wellesley on March 30, together with a few scattered individuals complete the March records so far reported.

On March 24 Barron Brainerd saw at least three Cowbirds at Atlantic. The first Phoebe was seen in Brookline on March 27, by R. M. Marble, on the same day Mr. C. J. Maynard saw one at Weston, and on the 31st, Barron Brainerd saw one at Newton. At Ipswich, March 27, J. L. Peters and C. Bosson saw a sparrow, evidently a Savanna, but could not get near enough to positively identify it. On the same day R. and H. G. Morse saw a Vesper Sparrow in Natick.

The observation of northward flight of the waterbirds and raptures has not been as satisfactory as we should like it to be. The one bird that has been carefully noted is the Pintail. A male was seen on Leverett's Pond February 22, and on March 12 he was joined by a female. The male was last seen on March 21, and the female was not seen after the 28th of the month.

The ducks on Fresh Pond have received more attention than others. On March 2 there were 65 Blacks, a Mallard and 3 American Mergansers on the Pond. The Blacks have varied from between 120 to 13, the numbers decreasing after the 8th. The Mallard was not seen after March 28. The number of Mergansers has been fairly constant, about a dozen, although on one afternoon, that of the 15th, there were 27 at least. On that same day a female Scaup of some species appeared on the Pond. On the afternoon of the 27th a male Lesser Scaup was seen by Joseph Kittredge, but departed by the next morning. On March 23 a female Scaup was seen on Fresh Pond in company with Blacks.

On March 17 R. M. Marble found a male Baldpate on Fresh Pond and on the 19th Messrs. Marble and Kittredge saw a female, but no male on the same body of water. The Chestnut Hill Reservoir furnished a surprise on March 21 when R. M. Marble and Barron Brainerd saw a male Canvasback, four male and two female Redheads. The birds had flown the next day.

Very few observations were conducted along the seashore and

consequently little was accomplished. On March 13 there were no Old Squaws either at Marblehead or at Nahant. On March 27 about 10, in summer dress, were seen off Ipswich beach. On the same day 4 Horned Grebes, 2 in summer plumage were seen off the same place.

The only Hawks which have been observed as migrants are the Cooper's and the Marsh. A Cooper's Hawk was seen in Belmont March 11 by J. L. Peters; one was seen from a car in Wakefield on the 14th by Barron Brainerd, Joseph Kittredge, Jr., and J. L. Peters; three more were noted near Lost Pond, the 14th, by R. M. Marble and Barron Brainerd. The Marsh Hawks were all seen on the 27th. J. L. Peters saw two males and a female at Ipswich; Barron Brainerd and Joseph Kittredge, Jr. saw one on the Neponset Meadows.

Joseph Kittredge, Jr. saw two Snipe in the Pout Pond Swamp March 29, the next day three were seen there by J. L. Peters. On the evening of the 30th R. M. Marble went to Weston in search of Woodcock, while J. L. Peters went to Belmont for the same purpose. Both parties were successful. There were two, possibly more birds at Belmont.

On March 31 Joseph Kittredge, Jr., saw a flock of ten Canada Geese flying over Fresh Pond.

Summary. The weather throughout the month was typical March weather with plenty of cold wind. All migrants due in March arrived on average time, but in no great numbers.

NOTES.

On March 4 two Swamp Sparrows were seen in the Maple Swamp by Barron Brainerd and later on the same afternoon by R. M. Marble and J. L. Peters.

March 6 Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters saw a flock of about 30 Lapland Longspurs at Moon Island; while watching these birds a Short-eared Owl started up and flew off. Later in the day the same observers saw a Hairy Woodpecker in the Middlesex Fells.

On March 13 the Franklin Park Mockingbird was in song. His song consisted of the notes of the Bluebird, Sparrow Hawk, Flicker, and Brown Thrasher interspersed with notes of his own.

At Nahant March 13, Joseph Kittredge, Jr., Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters saw a flock of thirteen Holboell's Grebes. Eight had their heads under their wings and were almost impossible to identify until closely approached. Later in the day the same observers found a female Green-winged Teal and a female Scaup, species uncertain, on Spot Pond.

A pair of Screech Owls was seen in Jamaica Plain by J. L. Peters on the evening of March 14.

An Iceland Gull was observed off Moon Island on March 20 by R. M. Marble and H. W. Wright.

J. L. Peters saw a male Hairy Woodpecker in Waltham on March 23.

On March 27 J. L. Peters noted an Ipswich Sparrow at Ipswich. On the same day Barron Brainerd and Joseph Kittredge, Jr., saw a Ruffed Grouse in Norwood.

A FEW WINTER BIRDS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLANDS.

It was my good fortune to spend three weeks of February, 1909, among the foothills of the Franconia Mountains of New Hampshire, and much of my time there was devoted to observing the birds. This region is thickly forested with trees of various species, the most prevalent being White and Norway Pines, Hemlock, Spruce, White and Yellow Birches and Sugar Maple.

This great abundance of conifers rendered the locality especially attractive to Crossbills, of which I noted both species soon after my arrival; the American species in far greater numbers. In fact I saw but one White-winged Crossbill during my stay and that observation occurred just after the middle of the month.

Even more abundant than the Crossbills were the cheery Redpolls which I generally saw daily, either singly or in small flocks, winging their way toward a grove of birches whose catkins offered them bountiful food. They seemed to be quite as uneasy as the Crossbills, for once only did I obtain a faultless view of their distinctive black chin-patch while they were busily engaged on a white birch.

The foregoing were the most conspicuous birds during the first

part of my stay, if I may omit the ever present Chickadee, one or more of which was always around the house picking at a doughnut or muffin strung on a bush for their special delectation. The number of their calls, especially as the month advanced, was really quite surprising and the well-known "Phoebe"-note became more and more prevalent. Indeed one lady remarked, as I had expected, that having heard the "Pewee" that very morning, she thought spring was on the way.

The first, and in fact only Woodpecker seen during my stay was the Hairy, and as I learn from other observers he is the sole representative of his family there in winter. The first pair which I saw were busily engaged in fighting, but later I saw three together amicably seeking their insect prey from the trunks of pines and hardwoods. A crimson splash on the nape of one of these showed him to be a male while one of the others at least was a female.

The lucky day of my first Hairy Woodpecker observation also brought forth a Ruffed Grouse which I saw picking its way gingerly through a birch thicket along the crust, which covered the snow during almost the entire month.

My first week had passed, but as yet I had no indication of that rarer and more uncertain winter visitor the Pine Grosbeak. One bright, sunny morning, however, just before rising, I was startled to hear their cheery, ringing notes. Running to the window, I was just in time to catch a fleeting glimpse of two plump individuals perched upon the topmost branches of a sugar maple just outside. They were off in the twinkling of an eye but the instant's glance at their subdued brown plumage showed them to be females or immature birds. Once afterward I heard their gladdening call, but I observed no others.

The sugar maples seemed to be especially attractive to the birds, for besides my longed-for Grosbeaks and countless Chickadees, they furnished my first Red-breasted Nuthatch actually observed though I had previously heard their high nasal call in the woods.

During early February the weather was uniformly cold, but the thermometer scarcely ever went below zero. It was sufficiently cold, however, to keep the Blue Jays from proudly displaying themselves in all their beauty and making the woods resound with their discordant call. But they occasionally made sallies for the Chick-

adees' doughnuts and flew away guiltily into their forest retreats. Only a few spring days were needed to bring them out in full force and to awaken to new life their more noisy cousins the Crows, of which I saw no evidence until Washington's birthday. I am told that the Crows are seldom seen there in the dead of winter, but that they suddenly make an appearance at the first signs of spring.

The only other winter bird noted was a single Junco which flashed shyly past me on February 20, showing his white outer tail-feathers as he sped past and was lost to view among the pines.

On the whole the trip was a most pleasant one in spite of the small variety of birds, for it was a real joy to be out-of-doors observing nature in its sparkling robe of snow.

Charles Schweinfurth.

EAVE SWALLOWS AND THEIR NESTS.

MOST of us know the Eave Swallows, with chestnut patches on throat and rump, here in New England, as migrants only. A few summers ago, I took some care and great pleasure in watching a colony of the birds build their nests. Unfortunately, I left the vicinity before the young birds hatched, so this account will be restricted to the nests and eggs. During the last two weeks of June, I was in North Andover. Just back of the house where I was visiting, there was an old barn with big, broad eaves. Under these eaves the swallows built their nests.

Partly on the wall of the barn and partly under the eaves, they began to plaster the little gray pellets of clay. Just where they procured this clay, I do not know, but I think it must have been from the wet bottom of a stone quarry a quarter of a mile away. At first the birds found difficulty in making the clay stick to the bare wall, so that a little pile of it formed under each of the half-dozen nesting sites. After the foundations were laid, the work progressed rapidly. Sometimes, I could see the dividing line between the fresh clay of that day and the dry, hardened pellets of the day before. The nests were all finished within a week of one another. It was wonderful to see how perfectly formed they were; conical, with the larger ends attached to the wood-work, and tapering to the circular entrances which were about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Inside

this pocket-shaped clay home, they made a shallow nest of fine grasses in which were laid usually four white eggs spotted with brown.

Sometimes two birds would get into the nest at once, and I could hear them gossiping to each other. Often a bird would sit at the entrance for five and ten minutes at a time with only its head projecting, and sing, and twitter, and warble contentedly. At such times the cream-white bar above the bill would show to great advantage. Here my visit ended and also my observations, although I still have a nest and eggs, taken down later by the painters, as a souvenir.

Joseph Kittredge, Jr.

Correction: W. C. Levey did not see the Razor-billed Auks from the Gloucester boat as was stated in the March number.

Correction: In the Club history given in the January number it was stated that the flower list had been given up. The flower list is still in existence, being kept by the assistant secretary.

THE WREN

Bulletin of the Norfolk Bird Club

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Editor, J. L. PETERS, Ridgely 66, Cambridge.

Manager, JOSEPH KITTREDGE, JR., 31 Holyoke St., Cambridge.

MIGRATION DURING APRIL.

THIS year April was a rather average month; most of the birds which arrived during that time appeared possibly a little later than last year. The first few days were rather warm and laid the foundation for a flight which was brought about by the unusually warm weather of the 6th, 7th, and 8th. This warm spell was followed by a few days of colder weather, which did not appear however to retard migration very much. From the 13th to the 20th the weather was moderately warm, but there was no general flight until about the 18th. Most of the birds arriving at that time were Myrtle and Yellow-palm Warblers. From the 20th to the end of the month the weather was quite cool, but in spite of this the birds, especially the two species of Warblers, continued to pass on.

Throughout the month the flight of certain sparrows, especially of the Juncos and Fox Sparrows, has been unusually light. In the case of several species it has not been possible for the members to see them until a few days after their arrival, but in most cases the birds have been found as soon as they arrived.

April 1. Female Redhead last seen on Fresh Pond. A Lesser Scaup noted on Jamaica Pond.

April 3. A Hermit Thrush at Squantum.

April 4. 2 Snow Buntings on the north side of Fresh Pond.

April 5. Pigeon Hawk seen on Brattle St., Cambridge. 6 Tree

Swallows at Marblehead. A male Lesser Scaup joined the other already on Jamaica Pond.

April 6. 3 Kingfishers, 2 Vesper Sparrows, and 6 Tree Swallows appeared about Fresh Pond. 1 Field Sparrow, 16 Vespers, 8 Savannas and 22 Myrtle Warblers at North Scituate. Not all the Myrtles were migrants, although many were in full plumage and in song.

April 7. 9 Vesper, 3 Savanna, and 2 Swamp Sparrows at Fresh Pond. At Wayland, a flock of 73 Canada Geese, 22 Phoebees, 2 Pine Warblers, and a Winter Wren. 3 Hermit Thrushes and 2 Pine Warblers were found at Arlington Heights. 25 Canada Geese flew over Jamaica Plain.

April 8. A general flight of Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, particularly of the latter. A few Yellow-palm Warblers also appeared. At Belmont a Broad-winged Hawk was seen to fly over.

April 9. A storm held back migrants; a flock of 6 Fox Sparrows was noted in the Maple Swamp at Fresh Pond.

April 10. 4 Field Sparrows in Franklin Park. At Dedham, an Osprey was seen flying over; 1 Barn Swallow in a flock of nearly 100 Tree Swallows; a flock of about 15 Rusty Blackbirds. A Winter Wren in song was seen in Brookline. At Scituate, Myrtle Warblers were abundant, many singing. There were few ducks and no Grebes off the shore. The last Red-throated Loon and 7 Northern Loons were noted.

April 11. 2 Winter Wrens, 1 singing, in Jamaica Plain. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Franklin Park.

April 12. A Pied-billed Grebe seen on the Charles River, Dedham. Said to have been there for some time.

April 13. 9 Swamp Sparrows in the Fresh Pond Marshes. 1 Chipping Sparrow on the north side of Fresh Pond.

April 15. A Northern Loon first appeared on Fresh Pond.

April 17. At Ipswich: — 1 Northern Loon, 9 Oldsquaws, 9 Blue Herons, a Winter Yellow-legs heard, 2 Piping Plover, 16 Horned Larks, 2 Chipping Sparrows, 9 Yellow-palm Warblers, 9 Hermit Thrushes.

April 18. Chipping Sparrows common everywhere; increase in Yellow-palm Warblers apparent.

April 19. A Brown Thrasher seen at Concord.

April 20. Virginia Rail heard at the Pout Pond Swamp. 13 Myrtle Warblers and 100 Rusty Blackbirds about Fresh Pond. At Ponkapoag Pond: — 2 Pied-billed Grebes, 3 American Mergansers, 7 Scaup Ducks. A flock of Geese heard.

April 21. An American Bittern and a female Wood Duck in Middleton, Mourning Dove in Topsfield, 2 Ospreys in Wenham.

April 23. General arrival of Brown Thrashers, and Barn Swallows, a few White-throated Sparrows appear as migrants. 8 Buffleheads, a large number of Horned Grebes in summer dress, 2 Old Squaws, and a flock of American Scoters off Lynn beach. Black and White Warbler in Wellesley. 2 Chewinks in Brookline. Last Fox Sparrow seen.

April 24. At Ipswich, first Purple Martin and last Rough-legged Hawk. A Tree Sparrow at Medway.

April 27. Rose-breasted Grosbeak in song at Brookline.

April 29. A Spotted Sandpiper at Ponkapoag, Pied-billed Grebe last seen at the same place. A heavy flight of Warblers in the woods about Ponkapoag, the flight consisted chiefly of Yellow palm, Myrtle, and Black and White Warblers, a Black-throated Green, and 1 or more Solitary Vireos.

April 30. A Catbird in Brookline.

NOTES.

MANY of the northern birds which visited us last winter have remained quite late. At the end of April, Siskins and Red Crossbills were still present, although not very abundant. On April 11 J. L. Peters saw and heard a White-winged Crossbill flying over Brookline; on the 19th, Carlyle Morris found a male feeding on the ground in the Sargent estate, and on April 23, J. L. Peters heard one flying over Franklin Park. Barron Brainerd saw a Redpoll in Wayland on April 7.

Throughout the winter Cedar Waxwings were very scarce, only a very few were seen. Towards the last of April a few began to appear as follows. April 18, 1 in the Fenway, April 24, 2 in the Fenway, Barron Brainerd. April 23, a flock of 45 in Brookline, R. L. Creesy.

A Short-eared Owl was seen and 2 Carolina Wrens heard at Scituate by R. M. Marble and J. Kittredge, Jr., on April 10.

An Iceland Gull was seen on the beach at Ipswich, April 17, by R. M. Marble, Barron Brainerd, and J. L. Peters.

A Hairy Woodpecker building its nest, was seen at Ponkapoag on April 20 by J. L. Peters and Barron Brainerd.

17 Wood Duck, were seen by Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters on the Charles River between Bellingham Junction and Millis, April 24.

On April 23, Barron Brainerd made the following notes on the morning singing of birds. At the time he was on the Charles River between South Natick and Charles River Village.

Before 4 A. M. at South Natick, Grackles and Robins: 4.15, Song Sparrow: 4.20, Phoebe: 4.28, Chipping Sparrow: 4.30, Crow: 4.43, Chickadee: 4.50, Redwing: 4.54, Cowbird: 4.55, Bluebird: *Sunrise*, 4.58, Purple Finch: 5.01, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pine Warbler: 5.02, Yellow Warbler: 5.07, Yellow-palm Warbler, Downy: 5.08, Goldfinch: 5.10, Swamp Sparrow.

A DAY WITH THE BIRDS IN NEW JERSEY.

During the Easter vacation, I spent a week in northern New Jersey, devoting much of my time to walking and bird-hunting although I was out almost every day during the week, I am going to write especially on the birds that I saw April 5.

On that day I left the town where I was staying and went over to a place about eight miles distant, where I met three friends who are all very much interested in birds. When we had made ourselves ready for a good tramp, we started out and followed up a winding stream which flowed from a nearby mill pond.

Our first bird was the Song Sparrow, which was ever present throughout the day. Along the brook were numerous Red-winged Blackbirds, Blue Jays, and Robins. Farther up the stream, we found two White-breasted Nuthatches, and nearby a Brown Creeper, who was diligently searching the bark for insects and larvae.

When we arrived at the pond, a Kingfisher flew across the further end, uttering his familiar rattle, and disappeared through the trees. My friend told me that this bird had wintered in the locality. We walked nearly round the pond and added the Phoebe, Crow, Blue-

bird, Chickadee, Goldfinch, and Sparrow Hawk to our list. Our attention was then diverted to a young male Red-headed Woodpecker, which we saw high up in a large oak tree. The red feathers of his head were not those of a fully developed male bird and the black and white markings were not absolutely defined and distinct. This species interested me very much as it was the first individual that I had ever seen. We spent nearly half an hour in watching him. On our way back to the big farm house, a flock of several hundred ducks flew swiftly overhead. Most of them were doubtless Blacks. Just before we reached the house, we saw another Red-headed Woodpecker in a grove of oaks and hickories. This specimen was in full plumage and made a good climax for our morning's walk.

After a hasty but hearty dinner, we went down to the marshes where we expected to see ducks and perhaps some hawks. Our expectations were fulfilled, for, on our way down, we noted what appeared to be either a Red-shouldered or Red-tailed Hawk. We were in doubt a moment, but when the bird wheeled in the air, our doubts were immediately dispelled by his bright rufous tail. Meadowlarks seemed to be common, and a Downy Woodpecker was heard hammering on a nearby stump. We hastened on and soon arrived near the spot where we expected to see something of interest. Cautiously, we crept toward a small mud-hole of a pond, sometimes on our knees, sometimes half crouching, for my friends said that the ducks were very shy. A large tree stood in front of us, which we used as a blind, in order not to be seen or suspected. When we raised our glasses and looked out upon the water we saw a score of Black Ducks, and a like number of Pintail Ducks floating lazily about. The Pintails were very interesting, especially as I had never seen a flock of them before. Baldpates were heard upon the pond, but we did not see them until a few moments later when the whole gathering rose and circled about overhead. We counted a few Mallards, perhaps fifteen, among the wheeling mass of ducks which flew about above us. The sight was one long to be remembered. The birds did not settle down again while we were watching the pond, but flew off toward a big reservoir.

As we lay there, watching the ducks, half a dozen Tree Swallows flew over us and passed on. Before going on, we took a last look

upon the water and there, to our surprise, were two Pied-billed Grebes. They dove frequently and did not give us much chance to see them.

As we walked on, Marsh Hawks hovered over the wet meadow in search of their prey. In a good-sized willow tree, we noticed a large hawk perching upon the topmost branch. When we looked at him through the glass, he turned out to be a Rough-legged Hawk. As we approached he rose and slowly flew away. Fox Sparrows and White-throats were seen together in a dense thicket. On our way back we saw against the darkening sky two great Blue Herons. This was an appropriate bird with which to end up the day, for me a most interesting one.

Carlyle Morris.

A FEW EXPERIENCES WITH BIRDS AT ALTON BAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

ALTON BAY is the extreme southerly arm of Lake Winnepesaukee. The pretty little Merrymeeting River, the largest inlet to the lake has its source in Merrymeeting Lake, a beautiful sheet of water hidden among the hills. After many miles of meandering, this little river finally enters the lower end of the bay. The country is mountainous, sparsely settled, much of it thickly wooded, and a favorable one for birds.

In 1907, I had the good fortune to spend the last week of June and first week of July at Alton Bay. The one hotel had been burned the winter before and not yet rebuilt, so we were obliged to go to a boarding-house, which was situated on high ground overlooking both the lake and river. It was possible here to get in close intimacy with the birds of the vicinity.

The most interesting species to me was the kingbird. I found two of their nests. One was in a bush overhanging the river. By pushing the stern of the boat underneath the bush and standing on the seat one could look into the nest. When first observed it contained three eggs. These were white with large reddish brown spots. A few days after, two of the eggs had hatched, and the young were covered with reddish brown down and looked like little balls. A week later the little birds were considerably bigger, and

the third egg had not yet hatched, and so of course would not, as the parents were no longer sitting on the nest, but were getting food for the young. Both birds showed great concern whenever the nest was approached, and the male flew back and forth and hovered over it uttering his harsh twitter, while the female sat in a bush near by. We left Alton Bay before the young were able to fly, which I regretted very much.

The other kingbird's nest was in a small orchard behind the house. It was in an apple tree high up from the ground so I was unable to see into it, but it contained young when I first discovered it. These kingbirds were watchful over their brood to an extreme degree. They not only fed them well, judging from the number of trips made to the young, and kept other birds away from the nest, but went out of their way to seek trouble as the following will show.

At the boarding-house lived a cat whose custom it was to bask in the morning sun at the back of the house. Although the kingbird's nest was at a safe distance from pussy's resting place, the presence of this cat seemed to disturb the birds. One of them would often alight on the clothes line directly above her and give its war cry. Every now and then he would dart down with the seeming intention of striking her on the head with his bill, but just before he reached pussy, he would hover an instant then fly up to the line again uttering many threats. And pussy, who slept quietly while the bird scolded, would look up in sleepy surprise when he darted down at her, and when he returned to the line above her, she would settle down for another nap.

Another interesting bird observed at Alton Bay was the Phoebe. As is well known the Phoebe's favorite place for building is under a bridge. Over the mouth of the little Merrymeeting River where it flows into the bay is a wooden bridge supported by iron beams. For the past seven years, which is as far back as my observations go, Phoebes have built on the ledges of these iron beams. It is most surprising that the birds should build there, as the bridge is much frequented; and every time a wagon goes over, a great lot of dust falls through into the water, and of course into the nest, and the noise is deafening. The bridge is also frequented by people fishing at all hours of the day and night. It is very low, so that passing under in a boat you can easily reach the nest by standing up. The

Phoebe, however, remains quietly on her nest as the rowboats and even launches go under, and as no one looks up the nest and birds are never seen. Summer before last, however, there was a tragedy.

That year the Phoebe built on the beam nearest the river and extremely near one end of the bridge. It so happened that the river was very low that spring, exposing a large rock just from under the bridge near the nest. A boy not satisfied with fishing from the bridge, climbed down on this rock to fish, and so his head was not many feet from the nest. All went well for a time, as the Phoebe remained quietly sitting on the nest, and was not seen. But once, alas, the boy got down on the rock when the bird was not on the nest. When she returned, the boy saw her fly under the bridge, looked up and saw the nest, promptly chased the bird off, and put his hand into it. The bird, meanwhile, hovering about in distress.

All this happened in a moment's time, and as the bridge was plainly visible from the porch of the boarding-house, we saw the whole proceeding with our glasses, and hastened down to the bridge, only to find that the boy had gone. The day before this nest had contained four eggs, now it was empty! The Phoebe started to build in another part of the bridge but abandoned it before they had completed more than the foundation.

Last summer I was glad to see that they again built under the bridge and that they did not choose such an exposed position.

W. Charlesworth Levey.

THE WREN

Bulletin of the Norfolk Bird Club

A monthly magazine devoted
to the interests of the Club

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No. 6

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THERE were several reasons why the June number of the Wren was omitted. The most important of these was the lack of support by the Club members. The only material furnished by the members was a few migration notes, from which the following list of May and June migration dates was compiled.

During the summer, as all the members were scattered, it was not expected to get out any number, but with the arrival of September and the subsequent gathering of fellows, a September number should have been gotten out sooner, but as no one saw fit to hand in any notes, much less write a paper of any length, the September number was seriously delayed. This copy may be regarded as a June-September number, and has been made as large as possible to make up for the absence of the former edition and the tardiness of the latter.

Although there have been a few "kickers" who complained of our negligence in not getting out a June edition, we wish to thank all our subscribers and readers for the patience they have shown on the whole.

The following migration list was compiled from data furnished by five or six out of eleven members, and from the list of new arrivals kept by the secretary. These members, besides the editor, were the only ones to turn in anything like a complete list of migrants, Brainerd, Kittredge, Marble, Morris, and R. Morse. Most of the results are from observations made in Cambridge, Belmont, Brookline, Jamaica Plain, Ipswich and Wayland.

At the first regular meeting of the Norfolk Bird Club held this fall, Henry F. Dunbar of Center St., Brookline, was elected to active membership.

Migration during May and June.

	First seen	Became common	Last seen.
Horned Grebe			May 8
Loon			May 22
Bonaparte's Gull			May 22
Red-breasted Merganser			June 19
American Golden-eye			May 9
American Scoter			May 22
White-winged Scoter			May 8
Surf Scoter			May 8
Canada Goose			May 21
Green Heron	May 2		
Great Blue Heron			June 4
Sora	May 4	May 4	
Wilson's Snipe			May 14
Knot			June 19
White-rumped Sandpiper	May 22 ¹		May 29
Least Sandpiper	May 15		May 30
Semipalmated "	May 12		
Sanderling	May 22 ¹		May 30
Greater Yellow-legs			May 22
Solitary Sandpiper	May 10	May 15	May 25
Spotted "		May 4	
Black-bellied Plover	May 22 ¹		June 19
Semipalmated "	May 20 ¹		May 29
Turnstone	May 22 ¹		
Killdeer	May 12		
Pigeon Hawk			May 21
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	May 12		
Black-billed "	May 13		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			May 10
Whip-poor-will	May 9		
Night-hawk	May 14	May 28	
Chimney Swift	May 4		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	May 13		
Kingbird	May 6	May 8	
Crested Flycatcher	May 9		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	May 16		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	May 25		
Least "	May 6		
Bobolink	May 6		

¹ Probably earlier.

	First seen	Became common	Last seen
Baltimore Oriole	May 6		
Rusty Blackbird			May 12
Grasshopper Sparrow	May 13		
Henslow's "	May 27 ¹		
White-crowned "	May 10	May 14 & 15	May 26
White-throated "			May 16
Tree "			May 5
Slate-colored Junco			May 8
Lincoln's Sparrow	May 7	May 25	May 26
Chewink	May 4	May 4	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		May 5	
Indigo Bunting	May 11	May 15	
Scarlet Tanager	May 13	May 15	
Cliff Swallow	May 2		
Bank "	May 2		
Red-eyed Vireo	May 9	May 13	
Warbling "	May 8	May 9	
Yellow-throated Vireo	May 8	May 11	
Solitary Vireo			May 25
Golden-winged Warbler	May 6		
Nashville "	May 6		
Tennessee "	May 15	May 25	
Northern Parula "	May 4	May 7	May 31
Yellow "	May 4	May 6	
Black-throated Blue "	May 12		May 26
Myrtle "			May 26
Magnolia "	May 12	May 14	
Chestnut-sided "	May 8	May 9	
Baybreasted "	May 14	May 26	May 26
Blackpoll "	May 11	May 15	June 6
Blackburnian "	May 12	May 14	May 26
Black-throated green "		May 5	
Yellow-palm "			May 9
Prairie "	May 6		
Overbird	May 6	May 9	
Water Thrush	May 5	May 25	May 27
Maryland Yellow-throat	May 4	May 6	
Yellow-breasted Chat	May 20		
Wilson's Warbler	May 12	May 24	May 30
Canadian "	May 11	May 26	
Redstart	May 6	May 8	
Pipit	May 7		May 7
Catbird	May 4	May 5	
House Wren	May 6		

¹ Probably earlier.

	First seen	Became common	Last seen
Short-billed Marsh Wren	May 13 ¹		
Long-billed " "	May 5	May 5	
Brown Creeper			May 10
Red-breasted Nuthatch			May 4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			May 8
Wood Thrush	May 7	May 10	
Wilson's "	May 6	May 12	
Grey-cheeked Thrush	May 25		May 25
Olive-backed "	May 13	May 15	May 25
Hermit "			May 26
Northern Phalarope	May 22		May 22
Blue-winged Warbler	May 27 ¹		
Osprey			May 9

While the foregoing list gives a fairly accurate set of dates, no attempt has been made to give any idea of the numbers seen, therefore a short account of the migration together with a few remarks on certain species may not be out of place.

About May 4, most of the common resident birds, such as Maryland Yellow-throats, Yellow Warblers, Black and White Warblers, Catbirds, Chewinks, etc., became fairly abundant. On the night of May 5 the first flight took place, bringing with it such birds as the Orioles, Grosbeaks, and Bobolinks, together with a few Warblers, such as Prairies, Golden-wings, Nashvilles and Ovenbirds. Another and heavier flight took place on the night of May 11, so that on May 12 Blackburnian, Wilson's, Magnolia and Black-throated Blue Warblers were fairly common. Although there was no other heavy flight of warblers, the birds passed through until about May 27, when practically all had disappeared.

Unfortunately no good watch could be kept on the arrival of the shore birds. On May 22, the day of a northeast storm; five members of the club went down to Ipswich. The results of the walk can easily be seen by glancing at the list.

Some species, usually rare, were seen more frequently than usual, while other species, always fairly common, were unusually abundant. In the former class belong the Bay-breasted and Tennessee Warblers and Lincoln's Sparrow, in the latter the Solitary Sandpiper.

¹ Probably earlier.

At Braintree, on June 11, 1909, Barron Brainerd and I noticed what appeared to be a pair of Golden-winged Warblers acting as though they had a nest near by. The female, however, turned out to be the Brewster form. We searched for some time, but were unable to find the nest, although we could tell from the actions of both birds that we were within a few feet of it.

I went down to Braintree the next day and found the nest in about three minutes. It was within a few yards of a road bordered on both sides by scrubby growth. The nest was placed flat on the ground, protected by a few dried leaves. It was composed of grape-vine bark lined entirely with grasses. Within were five young birds, four or five days old. All showed the yellow wing patch distinctly.

On June 14 I visited the nest again, accompanied by Dr. W. C. Mackie. The nest was slightly displaced and contained two dead young ones, partly eaten by ants. There was no trace of either of the old birds or of the other three young ones.

The female was exactly like a female *chrysoptera* except that the line through the eye was as in *pinus*, the ear coverts only faintly gray, and the throat a little lighter than the rest of the underparts.

On the same day that we discovered the presence of these Golden-wings, we caught and killed a garter snake as it was climbing up to a Chestnut-sided Warbler's nest containing three naked young, and a short time later found a milk snake descending from an empty Chestnut-side's nest about which both birds were uttering cries of distress.

J. L. Peters.

On August 27 while sitting on that part of the South Beach of Martha's Vineyard which separates Tisbury Pond from the ocean, I noticed a blackbird flying about, but paid no special attention to it, until it flew past fairly close to me. Then I saw that its upper breast and throat were a clouded yellow.

I at once started to follow up the bird and obtain as close a view as possible, as I was clad only in a bathing suit and therefore had no glass. I pursued the bird across a marsh, waist high with water and whose bottom appeared to consist of sharp spines, but finally had the satisfaction of seeing my bird alight on the eel grass at the shore of the pond. Fortunately there happened to be a blind

between me and the bird, giving me ample cover from which to stalk the bird. In this way I approached within ten yards, and was able to make out that the bird was undoubtedly a female Yellow-headed Blackbird. The upper parts, tail, wings, neck and top of the head were black; upper breast, throat, and line over eye clouded yellow; a dusky line through the eye. The note was a "check."

It may be of interest to note that of the other four state records, two are from Eastham (on Cape Cod), and one from Monomoy Island, and one from Watertown.

J. L. Peters.

SHORE BIRD MIGRATION — FALL OF 1909.

The southward migration of shore birds this season was remarkable for the large variety of birds which were seen. Just what the conditions were to bring about such a flight are not always easy to determine, but a heavy storm is usually responsible for driving many birds to this coast which would otherwise pass by to the eastward.

The flight commenced early in July, and was at its height throughout the last half of August and the first half of September.

As early as July 4 Barron Brainerd, R. L. Creesy and I saw a male Turnstone and a few Semipalmated Sandpipers at Edgartown, but these birds may have been only stragglers. However, 4 Solitary Sandpipers and a Summer Yellow-legs which I saw at Pout Pond on July 13 could not be classed as such.

On August 7 I went down to West Tisbury, Marthas Vineyard. On the 8th the number of birds seen along the pond shore and in the marshes consisted of a Ring-neck, a few Peep, and a Winter Yellow-legs. On the 13th, along the South Beach from Oyster Pond to Katama Point, a distance of more than five miles, I saw the above named species and a couple of small flocks of Sanderlings.

This scarcity of shorebirds continued until the 17th; on that day there was a violent northeast storm accompanied by rain. The result was a large number of shore birds of all kinds (I saw fourteen species). Particularly common were Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, and Pectoral Sandpipers. The Black-bellies confined them-

selves chiefly to the grassy fields, the Sanderlings to the beaches, and the Pectorals to the marshes where they associated with Yellow-legs. I also found a Stilt Sandpiper on the marshes.

After this storm Black-bellies, Yellow-legs and Pectorals were abundant for some time, but by the first of September the Summer Yellow-legs were scarce, while their larger relatives became more abundant.

The Black-bellies and Pectorals, however, stayed on; in fact the former were still common on the 21st of September, while the latter did not perceptibly diminish in numbers until after the middle of the month.

I was fortunate enough to spend ten days at the South Beach, close by the mud flats of Tisbury Pond and near to some excellent salt meadows from which the water had been drained. On these flats and meadows I had excellent opportunities to keep track of the birds. Of course being right on the ground I saw many more birds than if I had been in the village. The first day that I was at the beach, the 8th of September, I saw a couple of Curlew, a Knot, and numerous Black-bellies, Pectorals and Peep. I secured a Western Sandpiper from a flock of Peep; the bill in this specimen measured 1.09 inches. On the days following this first I saw many more of the species mentioned above except the Western Sandpiper. On the 10th I saw a Golden Plover on the flats.

I came up from the beach on the 18th but the watch on the migration was continued for that day at any rate, at Ipswich, where Barron Brainerd in company with Mr. C. J. Maynard saw 2 Red-backed Sandpipers, 7 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and 4 Golden Plover.

On the 21st at West Tisbury the only new arrival was the Red-backed Sandpiper; the last Summer Yellow-legs was seen on that date.

Thereafter I had no opportunities to go out at the Vineyard, but on September 25 Barron Brainerd, Joseph Kittredge and I went down to Ipswich; it was very evident however that most of the birds had gone south, and that the great majority of the late stragglers would be cripples.

NOTES.

It has been said that one way to tell a Bittern from an immature Night Heron is by the latter's habit of alighting in trees whereas the Bittern never does so. In this connection it may be of interest to note a Bittern's perching in a tree. On May 1, 1909, Brainerd, Peters and Creesy saw a Bittern fly across the Charles River below the Farm St. Bridge, Dover, and light in a white pine. Then he stiffened up in his characteristic manner, his streaked underparts showing conspicuously against the dark green of the tree.

Among the birds noted by Messrs. Peters and Brainerd on a trip to northwestern Berkshire from May 29-31 inclusive were — May 29 Philadelphia Vireo, 2 at the base of Mt. Greylock. At the summit, a few Mourning Warblers, 2 Bicknell's Thrushes singing. May 30. On Greylock an Olive-sided Flycatcher calling. At the base, an Alder Flycatcher. May 31. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Lanesboro; a pair of Rough-winged Swallows, Pittsfield.

The Killdeer, seen on May 12 at the brickyard on Concord Ave. by R. Morse bred at the Pout Pond Swamp. The nest was discovered by Mr. George Nelson on June 27. Mr. Nelson secured photographs of both eggs and young. The birds were seen on June 28 by Messrs. Peters, Brainerd, and Creesy.

On the same day these same fellows saw a tree containing a nest of a Red-headed Woodpecker at Waverly. One of the old birds was seen in a grove near by.

(Shore bird notes have been treated in the body articles.)

On September 12 J. L. Peters saw a Duck Hawk attempt to carry off a tin Yellow-leg decoy, and being unsuccessful with the first one, swooped at another before he discovered his mistake.

A Blue-winged Teal was seen at West Tisbury on September 15 by J. L. Peters. The Whip-poor-will was heard for the last time on that date.

Jaegers of both species were unusually numerous throughout the season. A Parasitic was seen early in July by J. Kittredge. One specimen each of the Parasitic and Pomarine was seen at Plum Island, October 7, by R. M. Marble and J. L. Peters.

Barron Brainerd reports the following general notes. *September.*

12, 1000 Bronzed Grackles in Brookline; 13, two Barn and two Tree Swallows at Nahant; 14, Virginia Rail at Pout Pond; 15, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Brookline; 16, twelve Prairie Horned Larks at Ipswich, two Roseate Terns at Plum Island; 30, a Winter Wren in Brookline; 18, and October 2, a Lincoln's Sparrow, Brookline. *October.* 1, three Indigo birds, Cambridge; 4, one more in Brookline, two Yellow-palm Warblers, one Water Thrush, West Roxbury, a Magnolia Warbler, Brookline.

While in company with Mr. C. J. Maynard on October 2 at Plum Island, Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters saw the Nelson's, Sharp-tailed and Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrows, a Hudsonian Curlew, a Killdeer, Pigeon Hawk and Gannet; at Ipswich a Caspian Tern, Ruddy Duck and Spotted Sandpiper.

On October 3 R. M. Marble and J. L. Peters found three Grey-cheeked Thrushes and a Connecticut Warbler in West Roxbury. At the same place in the afternoon, Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters met with a large flight of Warblers including a Cape May and a couple of Palm Warblers besides Black and Whites, Parulas, Myrtles, Blackpolls and Black-throated Greens.

R. M. Marble and J. L. Peters saw a Short-eared Owl at Plum Island on October 7.

While walking through the Middlesex Fells on the morning of October 9 Barron Brainerd, J. L. Peters and R. L. Creesy saw a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher near the top of a medium-sized dead tree. The bird was rather quiet, making no noise and not moving about very much. If it had not been for the fact that he was in a tree absolutely devoid of leaves he would undoubtedly have been passed by.

On October 17 J. L. Peters and Barron Brainerd saw a Black-billed Cuckoo at North Adams.

Jamaica Pond has so far supplied a number of interesting birds.

On September 25 two male Lesser Scaups were present and also a bird possibly a female of that species. From September 26-30 a female Redhead was on the Pond. On Oct. 10 the first Ruddy appeared. This bird was followed by another a few days later. On the 17th R. M. Marble reported two more Ruddies and twenty-seven Coot (*fulica*). R. L. Creesy found three Baldpates and twenty-nine Coot on the Pond the afternoon of the 17th. The

report of the 19th showed that six Ruddies, twenty-nine Mud Hens and three Baldpates were on the pond, besides a few wild Black Ducks.

TWO DAYS AT MONOMOY ISLAND.

Although the name, Monomoy Island, had been familiar to me for some time, I had no clear idea of what the island really was until this fall. Nominally, it is an island but in reality, one hardly needs to wet his feet in crossing from it to the mainland. It starts at Chatham and stretches about ten miles southwest toward Nantucket. At no point, is it more than one mile wide. The eastern side is a straight, steep, sandy beach from which you look right out to sea. The western side forms the boundary of Chatham Bay. The shore line is very irregular and sandy flats extend for miles out into the bay. The beach itself is sandy or pebbly or weedy as the case may be. Every now and then, the beach is interrupted by small tidal channels which run up into the marshes. Inland, the island is a series of marshes and low, sandy hills covered with coarse grass. There are no trees on the island at all. Except for two Live Saving Stations and half a dozen scattered shanties, it is uninhabited by man. Two friends and I spent two days at Monomoy, making our headquarters on board the launch in which we came. Although we did some shooting, to me the birds we did not shoot were more interesting than those we did.

Sept. 7, the morning after we arrived, we walked from about the middle round the southwest end of the island. We first crossed a marshy stretch to reach the ocean side. In this marsh, we flushed a large flock of migrating Meadowlarks, one lone Bobolink in immature plumage, several Savannah and Song Sparrows, and one, possibly more, Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Along the beach Sanderling and Semipalmated Sandpipers were frequent in small flocks. Common Terns were flying past continually. Twice Loons flew overhead, showing to great advantage the peculiar rudderlike position of the feet. During that walk we saw eight Pomarine and two Parasitic Jaegers. I had always considered this family of birds to be decidedly rare and to see so many was a great treat.

For those of my readers who are not familiar with the Jaegers, I would say that they resemble the Gulls in form and size. The Pomarine Jaeger is larger than the Parasitic but the plumages of the two are practically identical. Both species have two color phases irrespective of age or sex. In one phase, the birds are wholly black; in the other, they are dark above and lighter beneath with marked white patches near the tips of the wings which show plainly in flight. We saw birds in both plumages that morning. Occasionally one of the Jaegers, as is their habit, would chase a tern to make it drop the fish it carried and a lively chase it would be, although the Jaeger usually won in the end.

During the morning, we saw a small flock of Black Ducks flying and one Scaup which had evidently been wounded, for it tried to rise but could only flop its wings. Twice during the day, we flushed a Willet but could only get near enough to see its form and hear its characteristic call, described as Will-will-willet. As we ate our lunch on the Point, three White-winged Scoters flew by; and shortly after two Roseate Terns, so close we could easily see the black bills and long forked tails.

During the walk back to the boat, the birds were different but not unusual for the most part. A Black Tern was perhaps the most interesting thing. Its small size, slate-gray wings, white head and black patches back of the eye made identification easy. We also saw Yellow-legs, Spotted Sandpiper, and Black-bellied Plover. Just at twilight, several Night Herons flew over the boat and bade us a characteristic "good-night."

The next day, we took in the Chatham end of the island. Most of the birds were like those of the day before. Yellow-legs, and Semipalmated Plover were more common, not to mention the abundance of "Peep," gunners, and mosquitoes, whose presence added nothing to our pleasure. It was evident that the northeast end of Monomoy Island was more accessible and therefore less desirable than the ocean point where we had been so fortunate the day before. As a whole, however, the island seemed to me an unusually favorable place for all kinds of shore and water birds at the right seasons.

Joseph Kittredge, Jr.

At the meeting held October 16 the members of the Norfolk Bird Club elected the following officers:—President, J. L. Peters; Secretary, Barron Brainerd; Treasurer, R. M. Marble; Assistant Secretary, Charles Schweinfurth.

Mr. Schweinfurth refused to serve on account of lack of time, the club therefore loses the services of the fellow best fitted for the office to which he was elected. His successor will be chosen on October 30.

THE WREN

Bulletin of the Norfolk Bird Club

A monthly magazine devoted
to the interests of the Club

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Editor, J. L. PETERS, 35 Ridgely Hall, Cambridge.

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AFTER a little urging, a few of the members decided that it was about time for them to contribute to the *Wren* and thus make another number possible. This number, while it does not contain as much news as the last one, has two interesting articles; one a result of observations on the Baltimore Oriole, the other the story of successful artificial rearing of young birds. The latter is especially interesting because it gives an idea of how interest in birds was aroused.

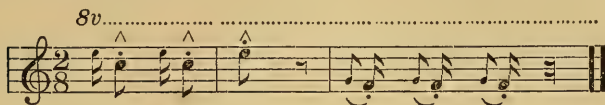
THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

THE Baltimore Oriole belongs to the family Icteridae which includes the Blackbirds, Meadowlark, Orioles and Grackles. The genus *Icterus* or Orioles contains about forty species, most of which are confined to the tropics. The only two that come as far north as New England are the Orchard Oriole which is uncommon as far north as Massachusetts, and the Baltimore.

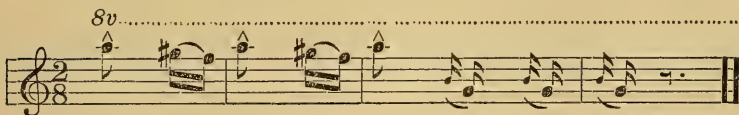
The Baltimore Oriole is found in summer throughout the eastern United States, east of the Mississippi, and north to the southern provinces of Ontario and Quebec. It arrives in Massachusetts from South and Central America, its winter home, early in the second week of May, and shortly afterward selects a site for its nest.

The site preferred is the extremity of a drooping branch of an elm, though other trees are often chosen. The nest is suspended, and is six to eight inches deep. It is composed of yarn, string, horsehair, grass, etc., woven in and out, forming a sort of coarse

It is the custom among birds, if they are not disturbed to return the next year to the same locality, and even build in the same tree. A pair of Orioles built in this same elm the next year. It was, however, not the same pair that built the year before; for the song of the male was mediocre in comparison. The typical song of the Oriole resembles this:—



But there was one around our house last spring and spring before last that sang thus:



The Oriole is not so accommodating as the Chickadee or Field Sparrow, who, when you imitate their song will come into the trees above you and answer as long as you care to whistle. When you imitate the Oriole's song he soon gets angry, and flies away. Once while standing on the sidewalk in front of our house one flew into an elm near by, and began to sing. I imitated him. Immediately he gave his scolding chatter. When I gave the call again he flew directly toward my head. I thought he was going to light on it; but he cleared it by about a foot, and lit on a low branch of a pear tree above me. When I again gave his call he seemed to be disgusted for he flew away.

The female also has a song, and this fact was once instrumental in saving the life of one of them. It was on a day when I was in the back yard shooting English Sparrows. A bird lit in a tree close by. I thought at first it was a sparrow, but it looked rather large, and I thought I saw a little yellow on the bird when it alighted. I aimed and was about to shoot, when it occurred to me that the bird might be a female Oriole. So I gave the Oriole call, and to my surprise, I was answered immediately. The reply was different from any Oriole's I had ever heard, and lacked some of the rich

clear quality of the male, but it was about the length of their song, and was characteristic enough to be easily recognized. It is needless to say I quickly lowered my gun. I kept imitating the song, and she flew into the cherry tree under which I was standing, and remained there several minutes.

The food of the Oriole is varied, and shows the bird to be of great economic value. Professor Beal finds that eighty-three and four-tenths per cent of the Oriole's food consists of animal matter; caterpillars forming thirty-four per cent. of the whole. Forbush says, "The Oriole is one of the first among the birds known to destroy hairy caterpillars, and for this alone it may be ranked as one of the chief friends of the orchardist and forester. The tussock, gipsy, brown-tail, tent, and forest caterpillars, the fall webworm and even the spiny caterpillar of the mourning cloak butterfly,—all are greedily eaten by the Baltimore; and it does not usually swallow many, but merely kills them and eats a small portion of the inner parts. It thus destroys many more than would be needed to satisfy its appetite were they swallowed whole, while at the same time no recognizable portion of the caterpillar can be found in the bird's stomach." Other things which they eat are May and other leaf-eating beetles. "Bagworms, curculios, wasps, bugs, plant lice, scale insects, March flies, and crane flies are among the insects eaten by this bird."¹ One of the chief complaints brought against the Oriole is that it occasionally helps itself to green peas. Dr. Harris says in his "Insects Injurious to Vegetation" that the Oriole splits open the green pea pods to get the weevil grubs contained in the peas, thereby greatly helping to prevent the spread of these noxious insects. This seems to indicate that it is not always the peas he is seeking.

Thus the Baltimore Oriole is not only a most beautiful bird, and a fine singer, but one of the most useful birds that visits us. Hence it should be considered as a friend and every possible means taken to encourage its increase.

W. Charlesworth Levy.

¹ Useful Birds and their protection, by Edward Howe Forbush.

AN EARLY INCENTIVE.

IN the summer of 1903, an event occurred which was one of the means of interesting me in the study of birds. Of course, I was several years younger, and had not devoted much attention to birds, except as they make up a part of nature's general attraction. The place where we were staying was Alandar, in the extreme western part of Massachusetts, not far from the New York state boundary. Alandar is a section of the Berkshire Hills, and is eight miles from the nearest town. As this was so long ago, I do not remember all the events of the summer, but the one I now tell about made such an impression upon me that I can never forget it.

It was a midsummer's day, when a party set out from a white farm-house upon a winding country road for an afternoon's outing. My father was the only grown person of the group, which was composed of children about my own age. After we had journeyed on for about two miles, we made a halt to pick berries, which was our chief object in the walk. When we had gathered all we wanted, and were on the point of turning back, one of our party heard faint chirps by the road-side. We all hastened toward the spot from which these sounds came, and there under a large tree, were three baby-birds. We looked about in the trees to see if we could see a nest from which they might have fallen, but saw none. We were all anxious to save the little orphans, who looked hungry and frightened, so my father put them in his hat, and we hurried back toward the house.

When we reached home, we looked about for a large box, knocked off one side, put a soft piece of cloth and some straw in it, laid the little birds comfortably upon this matting, and then fastened slats over the open side. We got some warm milk and crumbs and concocted a sort of a mush, which we gave the youngsters. For the first few days, this was their only food, but later, having found out that they were cedar-birds, we tried giving them berries of various kinds. These seemed to please them very much, and after that they lived almost wholly on berries. Before their feathers were fully developed, we could see the round pellets passing down the throats of the birds, a process we used to think very amusing. There was a cat about the place, but the box was firmly built, and

there was usually someone near it to chase the beast away, so that the birds were not bothered by this enemy. It certainly was very interesting and instructive to watch the little things play and grow and we took an added interest in them, because we felt that we had been the means of saving their lives.

After we had had the birds two weeks or more, we decided to let them have their freedom. So we opened their temporary prison, and gave them lessons in flying, or at least we aided them in their learning. We would hold them up on our fingers a little way from the ground and then gently push them off. At first they fell, but soon they seemed to realize what their wings were for, and began to flutter them a little. We gradually raised our fingers higher from the ground, and changed their positions so often, that they soon became quite capable flyers. One of the birds was not seen after this; it probably flew away to some other place. The other two, however, stayed around the rest of the summer and were still in the vicinity when we had to leave. This was a very interesting experience for me, and really was one of the things that started me in my interest for birds.

CARLYLE MORRIS.

NOTES.

W. C. LEVEY reports the following general notes.

October 16. While in company with Mr. C. J. Maynard at Moon Island, two adult and one young Ring-billed Gull; one Kumlein's Gull.

October 18. A flock of about fifty Pipits near Concord Ave., Cambridge.

November 6. In company with Mr. C. J. Maynard on the shore of the Cambridge Water Basin, Waltham. A flock of Evening Grosbeaks. The birds were in flight showing the white wing patch as they wheeled. The flight was swift and direct in contrast to the drifting flight of the Snow Bunting.

November 13. With Mr. C. J. Maynard at Plum Island and on the Ipswich River. A Brünnich's Murre was almost run down by the boat. Both Bonaparte's Gulls and Kittiwakes were seen at close range about the wharf at Plum Island.

Jamaica Pond Notes to November 21.

The fall of 1909 has brought with it one of the most interesting displays of water birds ever seen on Jamaica Pond. Up to October 16 the only birds seen there were a few Black Ducks and a female Redhead; the latter being present during the last four days in September. On the 17th of October five Ruddy Ducks, two males and a female Baldpate and twenty-nine Coot were seen on the Pond. The same Baldpates were on the pond at the time of writing. The Ruddies have varied between five and thirteen, while the number of Coot has averaged about thirty-two, although the maximum number was thirty-six. Two Ring-necked Ducks appeared October 26. They were first seen by W. C. Levey, but were not identified until the 28th when Barron Brainerd saw them. Both birds were on the pond at the time of writing. A male and female Lesser Scaup were seen on the 31st, and either other Scaups, or the same ones have been seen since; there have been only two birds seen at one time, however. On October 29 a female Wood Duck prepared to alight on the pond, but remained for only a few moments.

The bird was both seen and heard by Barron Brainerd and R. L. Creesy.

A young male Golden-eye was seen on November 11 by R. L. Creesy; the bird was gone the next day.

A female Green-winged Teal was present on November 13 and for a day or two after; it was first seen by R. L. Creesy.

One Pied-billed Grebe has been seen constantly since October 31. The bird is very tame.

Departure of Shore Birds.

Semipalmated Plover. A few seen along Lynn beach, October 19 by Barron Brainerd and R. L. Creesy.

Black-bellied Plover. One heard at Plum Island, October 30, by J. L. Peters.

Sanderling. Eight seen at Plum Island, October 30, by Barron Brainerd and J. L. Peters.

Red-backed Sandpiper. Two seen at Plum Island, October 23 by J. L. Peters, Barron Brainerd and R. L. Creesy.

Pectoral Sandpiper. A flock of about ten individuals seen along the Ipswich River, October 30, by J. L. Peters and Barron Brainerd.

Hudsonian Godwit. While in company with Mr. C. J. Maynard at Plum Island on November 13, W. C. Levey saw a bird of this species flying at great speed a short distance off shore.

J. L. Peters observed a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren and two Mockingbirds in the Arboretum, October 31. The Mockingbirds may have been young ones as their plumage had a rather light gray tone. W. C. Levey heard one of them singing on November 12. When the song was ended both birds chased each other about.

J. L. Peters and R. L. Creesy saw two Green-winged Teal in the Fells on November 6.

J. L. Peters saw a Vesper Sparrow and heard Pipits at Waltham on November 8.

R. M. Marble reports that a Blue Heron flew over the Stadium on November 13.

Joseph Kittredge, Jr., saw a Black-crowned Night Heron at East Milton on November 14.

J. L. Peters observed seven Double-crested Cormorants fly over the Stadium on November 20.

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